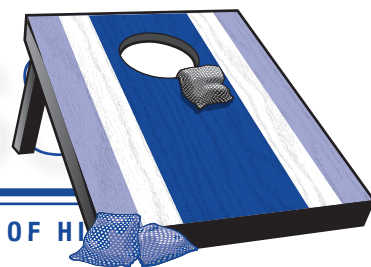


**BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT:** Join Highland Parks and Rec for an evening of fun at 4 p.m. **JUNE 29** at Main Square Park. Bags will fly at 4:30 p.m. Teams are guaranteed two matches. Top 10 go onto a single-elimination tourney. Prizes awarded to top finishers. Download a registration form at [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org). **INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114 or email [ckinley@highland.in.gov](mailto:ckinley@highland.in.gov).

# GAZEBOEXPRESS

JUNE 2019 • YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND



## 4<sup>th</sup> JULY FIREWORKS

Town leaders are keeping their fingers crossed that dry weather will grace this year's double-dose of rockets and boomers planned to light up the skies over Homestead Park on Independence Day.

Liz Breslin, of the Highland Council of Community Events, said the commission has reserved Homestead Park for July 4 and 5 in case inclement weather disrupts the fireworks show on the Fourth like it did last year.

When weather forced fireworks to be postponed in 2018, the council made contingency plans going forward.

"Instead of the usual 17 minutes of fireworks, we are looking forward to a full 35 minutes of heart-stopping entertainment," she said.

"We are all praying for beautiful dry weather for the entire week and are grateful to Mad Bomber Fireworks for providing this fabulous show."

## NEW TRASH, RECYCLING RATES TAKE EFFECT JULY 1

The Town Council voted in May to enter into a new contract with Republic Services that means across-the-board increases for garbage, refuse and recycling.

New rates go into effect July 1.

Council President Steve Wagner said he will be discussing costs and vendors with the Board of Sanitary Commissioners and Public Works Director John Bach over the next four years in the hope of attracting more vendors to the process when it is time to negotiate the next agreement. He is also hoping for a better climate when it comes to demand for recyclables.

"We had only one vendor and that is never ideal," Wagner said. "I believe our sanitary board commissioners opted for the absolute best agreement they could given what they had to work with. Their decision will save \$97,000 over the next year."

### BY THE NUMBERS ...

Here's how the total monthly fee - \$23.89 for Year 1 - breaks down according to services:

Garbage collection	\$17.19
Recycling fee	\$0.77
Town services	\$5.93
Tree services	\$0.26

In years 2 through 6, the base cost for garbage collection will increase by 4 percent per year while the recycling process fee will fluctuate based on global recycling markets.

### FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVAL | JULY 3-7

Highland's annual festival kicks off five days of festivities at Main Square Park. From live entertainment and carnival rides to the parades and All-American Mile, there's something for everyone. **See details on back page.**

## INDIANAPOLIS UPDATE

The end to construction headaches on south Indianapolis Boulevard bridge is in sight with an INDOT prediction that all lanes would be open by early June with only minor disruptions for a few more weeks.

The 14-month project snarled traffic from the start when the four-lane highway that leads to the heavily traveled south Highland retail district was reduced to one lane in each direction. At the height of construction, Highland police had designated patrols in and around the mall to assist with traffic back-ups and accidents.

The finished project includes the addition of sidewalks on both sides of the four-lane bridge.

**INFO:** Visit [indot.gov](http://indot.gov) for latest construction project information.



### WARD 1

**BERNIE ZEMEN** - vice president  
bzemen@comcast.net  
(219) 781-1056



### WARD 2

**MARK HERAK**  
mherak@highland.in.gov  
(219) 838-0126



### WARD 3

**DAN VASSAR**  
dvassar@highland.in.gov  
(219) 924-1945



### WARD 4

**STEVEN WAGNER** - president  
swagner@highland.in.gov  
(219) 718-3199



### WARD 5

**KONNIE KUIPER**  
kkuiper@highland.in.gov  
(219) 924-7820



### CLERK-TREASURER

**MICHAEL GRIFFIN**  
mgriffin@highland.in.gov  
(219) 838-1080

## NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:  
[gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com](mailto:gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com)

The Gazebo Express is produced by:  
The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041  
[www.theideafactory.us.com](http://www.theideafactory.us.com)

Printed by Lithographic Communications  
9701 Indiana Parkway, Munster, IN 46321

# TREE-MENDOUS ARBOR DAY KICKS OFF TREE PLANTINGS THROUGHOUT TOWN

Warren Elementary students participating in their first Arbor Day planted a dogwood where a diseased ash tree once stood. The ceremony is the next step in Highland's commitment to bolstering the canopy of hardwoods to shade and protect the community on the road to becoming a Tree City USA.

The Highland Community Foundation has committed \$2,000 that will be coupled with a \$2,500 Environmental Action Grant from NIPSCO to provide another 100 trees on private property.

"The Highland Community Foundation Board is happy to move forward with this project and make another planting available for the residents of Highland," Community Foundation President Lance Ryskamp said.

"HCF has been a partner since the beginning of the tree program, beginning with a partnership in the town-wide tree inventory in 2017," Ryskamp said. "We are proud to be able to continue to assist the community in its efforts to improve and diversify Highland's tree population." 🌳



Warren Principal Christina Davis plants a dogwood tree donated by NIPSCO near a site where a diseased Emerald Ash Borer tree was removed. [Photo provided]

## TREES FOR RESIDENTS

State Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon, D-Munster, is donating 100 seedlings — made available through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources — to Highland residents. The young trees are destined to be planted on private property. The seedlings will be distributed on a first come-first serve basis at Highland Public Works, 8100 Kennedy Ave.

**INFO:** Call 219) (219) 972-5083.

# HIGHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT BEEFS UP SUMMER PATROLS THROUGH LABOR DAY

As seasons change and residents spend more time outdoors, Highland Police do, too.

Summer patrols, which began Memorial Day, will continue through Labor Day. Officers on the summer detail focus on neighborhoods and community policing, enforcing speed limits and stop sign compliance while spending time outdoors, meeting up with residents in the parks, downtown and on the bike path.

"Our officers look forward to spending time with residents," Highland Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said. "It's important people get to know us while we are getting to know them. This is community policing at its finest."

Officers will again deploy the department's four-wheel drive vehicle to gain access where regular patrol vehicles cannot reach.

"We love our residents and want them to enjoy their summer safely," Hojnicky said. "These officers are there to enhance quality of life for everyone." 🐾

## KEEPING HIGHLAND SAFE

The Highland Police Department ramped up patrols to be where the people are, whether that is out in the neighborhoods, at town parks, on the bike path or visiting with neighbors.

Police Chief Pete Hojnicky believes those patrols have contributed to:

- ★ Reductions in crime to pre-1968 levels, particularly when it comes to burglaries and robberies
- ★ Overall community safety
- ★ Enhancements that make Highland a desirable community to live in — no matter what your age



# HERON ROOKERY

## Audubon launches new restoration and community engagement initiatives in Northwest Indiana

Highland's Heron Rookery is part of a two-year effort to plan and restore wetlands vital to threatened and endangered marsh birds along the Little Calumet River.

In all, four projects are scheduled along 10 miles of river from Hammond to Gary beginning this year.

Nathaniel Miller, acting director of Audubon Great Lakes, said as part of the project, national, state and local partners will be working to control invasive species and restore native plant diversity while collaborating on design restoration management plans along the full stretch of the river.

In Highland, Miller said the team will focus on controlling high water levels, which have accelerated the destruction of trees where herons have long nested.

"We are already looking at how water flows into and out of the rookery," he said. "Once the water levels are controlled, we will be able to establish native plants and encourage the growth of new trees, which will encourage herons to return." 🦢

### ABOUT THE LITTLE CAL

The Little Calumet River is an important part of Indiana's natural heritage. The river is also the largest swath of habitat in the area, making it critical for wildlife and especially secretive marsh birds, which have been in steep decline for the last 20 years. Audubon Great Lakes and partners have been conducting marsh bird surveys in the Calumet area, in Illinois and Northwest Indiana, since 2015, to collect data that informs the impacts of restoration and guides future actions.

More information about Indiana marsh bird surveys is available at [gl.audubon.org](http://gl.audubon.org).



### WHERE'S HIGHLAND'S HERON ROOKERY?

Bring a pair of binoculars and head east along the Little Calumet River Levee or the Erie Lakawanna Trail until you reach Liable Road to enjoy spectacular views of beautiful birds, ducks, geese and water-loving mammals. Download our brochure from the town website at [highland.in.gov/heronrookery](http://highland.in.gov/heronrookery).

### OWL YOU NEED IS LOVE

The town is embracing Humane Indiana's owl art project. With weeks to go before the deadline for sponsorship, 14 Highland individuals, civic groups, churches and businesses — and dozens more from communities throughout Northwest Indiana — have stepped up to sponsor or support the purchase of an owl statue, which will be transformed through the talents of local artists.

Owls that have been sponsored but not purchased will be auctioned off at a special fund-raiser this fall. All proceeds go to help animals — that are in the care of Humane Indiana at its Munster shelter and Valparaiso wildlife rehabilitation center.

Highland sponsors include:

- ✓ Aide Rentals
- ✓ Apex Construction
- ✓ The Art House
- ✓ Citizen Donors for Highland PD
- ✓ Edward Jones
- ✓ Gloriea Dei Lutheran
- ✓ Grimmer Construction for OLG
- ✓ Highland Christian School
- ✓ Highland Town Council
- ✓ The Hydrant for Merkley School
- ✓ Hyre Electric/Emcor
- ✓ Popa Heating & Cooling
- ✓ Sims Engineering
- ✓ Vytos Pharmacy

**DEADLINE:** Submissions must be received by June 30. Sculptures will be delivered to participants within seven to 10 working days.

**WHEN:** The owls will be on display August 1 to October 31.

**INFO:** Visit [humaneindiana.org](http://humaneindiana.org) or please call (219) 513-8911.

### PARADE APPLICATIONS

The Highland Council of Community Events is accepting applications through **JUNE 15** for this year's Twilight Parade, which kicks off the annual Fourth of July festivities, as well as the annual Kiddie Parade. Apply online at [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov).

**INFO:** [highlandccee@gmail.com](mailto:highlandccee@gmail.com)

# 4th of July

## RUN THE MILE

The 36th annual All-American Mile Run kicks off the Twilight Independence Day Parade. All participants receive a T-shirt. Entry forms are available at Lincoln Center. Register race day from 5 to 6:15 p.m. on Kennedy Avenue by the high school. Open to all age groups, the race begins at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 3** at 40th Street and Kennedy Avenue. The fee is \$10 through July 1 and \$20 on race day.

**TOP PRIZES:** Awards for Top 3 in each age division. Males with the fastest sub 4-min mile and females with the fastest sub 5-min mile win a \$250.

**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org

## WATCH THE PARADE

The Twilight Parade begins at **6:30 p.m. July 3** at St. James the Less Catholic Church (45th and Kennedy), continues north on Kennedy to Highway Avenue and east along Highway to the park. A kiddie parade begins at **12:45 p.m. July 7** in the parking lot across from Traditions and ends at Main Square Park.

## ENJOY THE FIREWORKS

Grab a blanket or your favorite lawn chair and join us for our fireworks at **9 p.m. July 4** at Sharp Complex.

## KNOW THE RULES

Fireworks are allowed between 5 p.m. and two hours after sunset **June 29** through **July 9**.

The exception is **July 4** between 10 a.m. and midnight.

## ATTEND THE FESTIVAL

The festival kicks off at Main Square Park. Look around town for \$2 coupons.

### JULY 3 5-11 PM

**WRISTBANDS:** \$25 from 5-10 PM

**5 PM** DJ music  
**7 PM** Dirt Born  
**9 PM** Got Issues

### JULY 4 1-11 PM

**WRISTBANDS:** \$25 from 1-5 PM

**1:15 PM** Jamie Harrison  
**3 PM** Corey Dennison Blues Duo  
**5 PM** Brigitte Rios Purdy  
**7 PM** Joseph "Mojo" Morganfield & the Mannish Boyz  
**9 PM** James Gedda & Jack Whittle

### JULY 5 5-11 PM

**WRISTBANDS:** \$25 from 5-10 PM

**5 PM** Soundz of Santana  
**7 PM** Blizzard of Ozz  
**9 PM** Bonfire

### JULY 6 1-11 PM

**WRISTBANDS:** \$25 from 1-5 PM

**1 PM** Stop.Drop.Rewind.  
**2:15 PM** Sapphire Kid Dancers  
**2:45 PM** Dyllyngyr  
**4 PM** Hobart Police K-9 demo  
**5 PM** Switchback  
**7 PM** Midnight Rider  
**9 PM** M&R Rush

### JULY 7 1-9 PM

**WRISTBANDS:** \$25 from 1-5 PM  
**LAST BLAST:** \$20 from 6-9 PM

**1-4 PM** Humane Indiana Animal Adoption  
**1 PM** Folklorico Dancers  
**1:50 PM** Silly Safari  
**2:40 PM** H G S Students  
**3:30 PM** Dave Rudolph's British Re-invasion  
**5:15 PM** Say Yes Band  
**7:30 PM** Mr. Funnyman

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Grab a comfy lawn chair and head to Main Square Park for the acoustical entertainment from 5 to 6 p.m. and live bands from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. on Saturdays through August 24. Here's a look at our upcoming entertainment:

**JUNE 8:** Tom Lounges' 60th Birthday Bash with LeAnn Stutler and Dyllyngyr - *Classic Rock*

**JUNE 15:** Jef Sarver  
Got Issues - *Rock/Pop Variety*

**JUNE 22:** Jamie Harrison  
Uptown Dance Band - *Pop/R&B/Dance*

**JUNE 29:** Robert Rolfe Feddersen  
Dirt Born - *1990s Alt-Rock*

**JULY 13:** Angie Campbell  
Manny & The Crescent City Po'Boys - *Dixieland Jazz*

**WHERE:** Main Square Park Gazebo

**NOTE:** In the event of inclement weather, call Lincoln Center for updated information.

**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org

## MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join us for an evening in the park to watch "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" on the big screen. Concessions will be available. Bring a blanket or comfortable lawn chair. If it rains, movie will be held at Lincoln Center.

**WHEN:** Dusk Friday, **JUNE 21**

**WHERE:** Main Square Park

**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org

## LIL' NINJAS SUMMER CAMP

Little ninjas - ages 6-8- will learn age-appropriate self-defense techniques, games and fitness exercises. A "Karate Kids Ninja Challenge" at the end of July will feature contests and awards.

**WHEN:** 5-5:45 p.m. **JULY 1-31** (off July 3)

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center. Campers will meet in Room 116, but all classes will be held outside - weather permitting.

**FEE:** \$35 residents/\$38 nonresidents, \$31 residents/\$34 nonresidents second member  
**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org

## RED HOT TENNIS CAMP

Learn proper tennis techniques from instructors Steve and Ofelia. Steve is a longtime USPTR tennis pro at Match Point and former head coach at Calumet College. Ofelia is a USPTR tennis pro at Match Point, assistant girls tennis coach at Highland High and former assistant coach at Calumet College. Camp is open to boys and girls 5 to 18 years old. Dress comfortably and bring your own racquet.

**SESSION 1:** Monday - Thursday, **JUNE 10-27**

**SESSION 2:** Monday - Thursday, **JULY 8-25**

**WHEN:** 8 to 9:30 a.m. or 9:30 to 11 a.m.

**WHERE:** Highland High School tennis courts  
**FEE:** \$140/\$150 per 3 week session; \$95/\$105 per 2 week session; \$50/\$55 for 1 week.

**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org